

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3796

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINR, FR

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD, NEW
FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER

PARIS 25145

1. DURING HIS FOUR YEARS AS FRANCE'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, USUN FOUND FOREIGN MINISTER LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD TO BE A WARM AND GRACIOUS COLLEAGUE. HE, OF COURSE, DEFENDED FRANCE'S INTERESTS TENACIOUSLY, BUT NEVER WITH THE CONDESCENSION OR DOWNRIGHT UNPLEASANTNESS OFTEN FOUND IN FRENCH DIPLOMATS. HE CAN BE COLD AND CORRECT AS A TACTIC, BUT HE KNOWS HOW TO COOPERATE WITH OTHERS AND IS A HELPFUL AND EFFECTIVE ALLY WHEN HE BELIEVES IT IS IN FRANCE'S INTERESTS.

2. DE GUIRINGAUD IS A THOROUGH PROFESSIONAL AND HAS ALL THE SUAVITY AND FELICITY OF PHRASE TRADITIONALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SKILLED FRENCH DIPLOMAT. HE NEVER EXHIBITED "GAULLIST SYMPATHIES" (NOTED IN REFTTEL) NOR ANY EVIDENCE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN HIS DEALINGS WITH USUN. A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND RELIABLE SOURCE IN THE UN SECRETARIAT SHARES USUN'S VIEWS IN THIS RESPECT. ON THE CONTRARY, DE GUIRINGAUD WENT OUT OF HIS WAY MORE THAN ONCE TO BE HELPFUL TO THE US ON ISSUES IN WHICH THE US HAD BEEN PLACED IN AN AWKWARD OR DISADVANTAGEOUS POSITION, AND HE SHOWED HIMSELF UNDERSTANDING OF US DIFFICULTIES ON AFRICAN ISSUES

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AND PROBLEMS SUCH AS VIETNAM. ALTHOUGH PERSONALLY

CONSERVATIVE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS SELF-IMAGE
AS A REALIST, HE ACCORDED IMPORTANCE TO GETTING
ALONG WITH THE THIRD WORLD AND SEEMED TO HAVE SUFFICIENT
UNDERSTANDING OF THE THIRD WORLD'S DESIRES TO
BE SKILLFUL AT IT.

3. DE GUIRINGAUD HAS GREAT PERSONAL DIGNITY AND CAN
STAND ON IT AT TIMES, BUT HIS MANNER IS BOTH GRACIOUS
AND GRACEFUL. HE IS SKILLED AT THE NICETIES OF DIPLOMACY,
AND HIS ABILITY WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF IT COMPELS
RESPECT. USUN CONSIDERS THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN THE MOST
RESPECTED SINGLE DIPLOMAT AT THE UN DURING HIS SERVICE
HERE.

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